undertake certain incentives. These include reduction in indirect taxes and import duties, removing bottlenecks in ports and accelerating power reforms, encouraging the development of manufacturing clusters, accelerating labour reforms and facilitating skill development.

(b) to (d) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to promote India's exports through meaningful interventions. A comprehensive Foreign Trade Policy was announced by the Government on 31st August, 2004 aimed at boosting India's exports by unshackling controls, simplifying procedures, reducing transaction costs, identifying and nurturing special focus areas for export promotion, etc. One of the strategies for export promotion also includes adoption of the fundamental principle that duties and levies should not be exported. In addition to this the Government has also been rationalizing the duty structure as part of an ongoing exercise to improve India's competitiveness in the global market while at the same time protecting the interests of the domestic industry.

Modernization of leather industry

1753. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested for release of Rs. 400 crores funds for leather industry modernization; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Government of West Bengal has requested for funds under the Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP) towards modernization and technology upgradation of leather units, located in West Bengal. Indian Leather Development Programme (ILDP) has an outlay of Rs. 400 crores in the Tenth Five Year Plan. The programme involves technology upgradation/modernization of individual units, infrastructure development, capacity building and productivity improvement in leather sector across the country. The scheme for technology up-gradation and modernization in the leather sector with an outlay of Rs. 290 crores is yet to be approved by the competent

authority. The Government has approved a scheme for establishment of Leather Goods Export Park at Kolkata, West Bengal with plan assistance of Rs. 5 crore.

Fake tickets at ITPO

1754. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that tickets of the India International Trade Fair, 2004 (IITF) were printed in more numbers than were ordered by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fake tickets was the reason for unprecedented rush at the IITF;

(d) whether an enquiry has been ordered to look into the matter;

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be completed;

(f) whether some officials of the ITPO have been found involved in this racket; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is being investigated by Delhi Police.

(c) No, Sir. India International Trade Fair (IITF) has generally elicited fairly encouraging response from the public at large for the last many years.

(d) to (g) The matter is under investigation by Delhi Police. No specific time frame for completion of investigation can be anticipated at this stage. Action as considered appropriate will be taken based on the outcome of the investigation.